

**Minutes
Toll Bridge Advisory Committee
Meeting of December 13, 2002**

Members of the Committee gave a status report on board review of the Tier 1 program.

- Steve Castleberry stated that the WTA board had reviewed this list but not taken action.
- Bob McCleary stated that the CCTA board supports the joint agreement drafted by STA, Napa, and CCTA staff. This agreement includes the I-680/I-80 interchange, which is not in the Tier 1 list. The board would like to look more closely at the systemwide category and would like to reexamine the timing of the toll increase in light of the state budget crisis.
- José Luis Moscovich said the SFTA board will take action in February. Staff is generally supportive and would like to see some of the WTA projects in the systemwide category. He suggested the Transbay Terminal perhaps shouldn't be considered a Bay Bridge corridor project only.
- Pam Belchamber said the Vallejo Transit board has not yet taken any action. Staff will meet with STA next week to regroup following the failure of Prop. E. She supports the existing list and would like to acknowledge the current fiscal situation.
- Gene Skoropowski stated the Capitol Corridor Board will take action on Wednesday. Staff is recommending a support position.
- Jean Finney stated that Caltrans supports the list but seeks clarification on the status of 4 proposed park-and-ride lots. Ezra responded that the park-and-ride lots had been merged with the express bus projects.
- Jean Roggenkamp stated that BAAQMD supports the emphasis on transit and is interested in seeing the cleanest available technologies deployed.

Ezra noted that this would be the last meeting of the Advisory Committee. He asked members of the Committee to provide any additional written comments in January. He emphasized that he is a consultant to Senator Perata. The bill will be Perata's and will reflect Ezra's recommendations as well as those made by others.

With regard to the state budget situation, Ezra noted that there is a desperate need for revenue, and this is a good time to look at new revenue sources such as a increased bridge toll. We should not worry about the program being hijacked to backfill the STIP because it would fail the nexus test. The program is not a "luxury" or "enhancement"; it provides service in key corridors. If we can't reach agreement about an equitable program, then everyone will lose out.

Kathleen Kelly (AC Transit) encouraged the transit operators to seek support from their boards. This may be the best chance to secure funding for transit.

Stuart Cohen (Transportation and Land Use Coalition) stated that it is important to get the bill through this session. If it is delayed until November 2004 it will compete with other funding measures.

Dennis Fay stated that the ACCMA board cannot fully support the list until dollars are assigned to projects. In response, Ezra noted that proposed funding levels cannot be made public until the legislators have a chance to discuss the bill. A meeting with the legislators has been proposed for the second week in January. It may be possible to have informal, one-on-one discussions about funding levels with agencies before then.

Bob McCleary stated that we should not create unreal expectations, especially regarding the sustainability of transit operations. José Luis Moscovich noted that he does not see the TCRP program as sacrosanct but does see Resolution 3434 as a regional priority that should be supported by the bridge toll program. Dennis Fay said we should expect to be asked how we can expand or add new projects when existing commitments are being cut; we should review the toll list to make sure the projects pass this test.

Therese McMillan (MTC) requested that we keep some perspective despite the bad news. The Governor has made a proposal. It is not yet a done deal. Are the regions going to be willing to fight to keep the program together? MTC will be looking to retain and recover the TCRP funding promised to projects in Resolution 3434. MTC will be looking at other funding options. Rebecca Long (MTC) observed that there is serious discussion among the RTPAs about seeking a gas tax. It would not be easy because there could be a number of tax increases to backfill general fund needs.

Bob McCleary noted that most boards are not going to willing to hold onto general fund revenues (TCRP) in the face of other need such as education. They may be willing to seek backfills from other sources.

Howard Goode (Caltrain/SamTrans) noted that the Committee is close to consensus and asked if we will continue working to reach it.

Rod McMillan stated that MTC wants to continue work with all the agencies to see how to move forward. We will start by projecting the available revenue and then develop a fundable program. In doing so, we will look at the impact of the proposed cuts on the candidate projects. We'll take some lead from the legislature so we don't get too far ahead. Rebecca Long added that MTC's support for the toll plan needs to be consistent with the overall budget strategy; MTC will seek replacement for TCRP funding.